

beechleaves

Newsletter of the Manawatu Tramping and Skiing Club



ISSUE 5, June 2014

MAIL: MTSC, P.O. Box 245, Palmerston North 4440 | WEB: www.mtsc.org.nz | FACEBOOK <https://www.facebook.com/MTandSC>

CLUB NIGHTS

7.30 pm, 1st Tue of the month, Rose City Aquatic Club Rooms, 50 Park Road, Palmerston North

June 3rd:

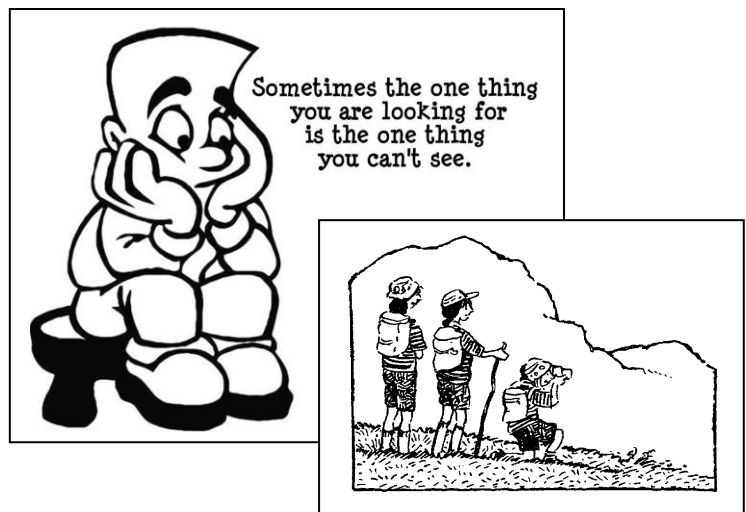
John Beech

Where have all the young folk gone?

John Beech will shed some light on engaging and recruiting younger trampers.

John is a high school teacher who is reported to have had good results in sharing his passion for tramping with his students.

Discussion to follow: what can MTSC do to better balance the age distribution of the membership and to get more participation in weekend activities?



July 1st: Once upon a tramp.....

Early tramping experiences viewed through time's telescope.

Many members have now been tramping for 40+ years.

Three such members (Andrew Brodie, Hugh Wilde and Dennis Jensen) will share early memorable and forgettable experiences.

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To receive your newsletter as a colour pdf (instead of by post), or if your phone, address or email change, please notify editor@mtsc.org.nz and membership@mtsc.org.nz.

The deadline for newsletter contributions is **the 1st week of the month**. Photos are welcome and will be included where possible – remember to include an appropriate caption.



MTSC President: Linda Campbell

president@mtsc.org.nz

One of the fantastic things about the New Zealand bush is that there are walks for all fitness levels and abilities. Walks that show the beauty of our native bush can be enjoyed by most people; young and not so young and also by many who live with disabilities. Recently the Woodville Lions held their Track/Tunnel/Gorge walk with approximately 1500 doing the walk. While this is not a difficult walk it was a reminder that for everyone the walk is different. As a marshal, being able to chat with people as they came by was a great reminder that for some such a walk is a real challenge. I take my hat off to the seniors that took part in the walk and also to those with disabilities and injuries who completed the walk. One gentleman who was "Tail end Charlie" is 85 years of age. He was a determined man who told us in past years he was a member of SAR in a different region. Thinking of what we consider easy walks reminds me that the same weekend while checking out the fantastic statue on the Tawa Loop we came upon a family group armed with walkie talkie radios as within their group there was a huge range of fitness and they wanted to keep in touch. Like the people who were challenging themselves on the track/tunnel/gorge walk so were these family members. And the really great thing is that they were out there doing it.

Enjoy yourselves in the hills but take care out there.

Linda

NOTICES and INFORMATION

Kime Hut is now officially available for public use

According to the DOC website

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-stay/backcountry-huts-by-region/wellington-kapiti/kapiti/kime-hut/>

Celebrations at the Lodge

The lodge is a great place for a party. Not only can you eat drink and be merry but you can also go for walks, go mountain biking or just sit in the sun and soak up the atmosphere. When the celebrations are over it is a quick skip down the corridor to go to bed. Outside of the ski season it is quite feasible to have the lodge to yourself and it can be booked for accommodation only so you can bring all the special party food with you.



Pre-dinner drinks and nibbles followed by a full on birthday dinner for Jenny and Adam's significant birthdays.



UPCOMING TRIPS

Trip Intentions

The email address for leaving trip intentions is intentions@mtsc.org.nz

Intentions sent to this address will not be acted upon UNLESS a party is reported overdue (e.g. by a family member, flatmate, friend, etc.). The email is sent to several MTSC members. This information will be provided to LandSAR only if the party is reported overdue.

The email should include: a list of participants and their contact details; a brief description of the intended route and possible alternative routes; starting point; start date; date/time due out; vehicle registration; and any other relevant details.



Trip Grading

The times listed below include tramping, meal and rest stops. In assessing the trip grading, terrain, weather and party fitness (which is as fast as the slowest member) are considered. Consult the trip leader if you are unsure about your suitability for a particular trip.

FAMILY	All welcome, casual pace, any age
EASY	4 hours per day, pace slower than Easy/Med. Does not relate to terrain
EASY/MEDIUM	5 hours per day at a pace slower than Medium
MEDIUM	7 hours per day at a standard walking pace
MEDIUM/FIT	8 hours per day at a pace faster than Medium
FIT	Over 8 hours per day at a pace faster than Med/Fit
TECHNICAL	Qualifying requirements to be announced by the trip organiser

Weekday trips generally range between Easy and Medium/ Fit. Call the leader for details on the destination and trip grade.

June Wednesday Tramps		
Date	Leader	Phone
4	Jill Faulkner	323 6094
11	Margaret Foot	357 8003
18	Mona Webb	323 4212
25	Suzanne Clark	356 8322

June Thursday Tramps		
Date	Leader	Phone
5	Geraldine Fovakis	356 4327
12	Graham Pritchard	357 1393
19	Merv Matthews	357 2858
26	John McLeod	323 5785

June Weekend Trips				
Date	Trip	Grade	Leader	Phone
31 - 2	Rongotea – Rangī Saddle	Med/Fit	David Harrington	06 839 5766
7 - 8	Lodge Food Carry	Help	Howard Nicholson	357 6325
15	Wharite	Easy/Med	Tim Swale	06 376 6556
22	Blue Range Hut	Easy/Med	Alla Seleznyova	355 0862
28 - 29	Waterfall Hut	Med/Fit	Jean Garman	021 176 0209
29	Holdsworth Old Tracks	Easy	Tim Swale	022 134 8384

For weekend trips, unless otherwise specified, contact the trip leader by Wednesday night for overnights or Friday night for day trips.



30th May - 2nd June: Rongotea – Rangi Saddle **Medium/Fit** **David Harrington** **06 839 5766**

From the TripleX car park we'll head up to Sunrise Hut. From here we have two options - the first is to follow the ridge up to near Te Atuaoparapara then north along the ridge to the track and down to Wakelings Hut. The second option is up and over, past Top Maropea Hut then approx four km down river where we climb up and over to Wakelings (wet feet this way). Day 2 is up to Rongotea, then south along ridge to Rangi Saddle and down to Waikamaka Hut for night. We may have a problem with leatherwood near spot 1420. May be a long day if we make it! Day 3 up to Waipawa Saddle then maybe onto Three Johns and down long leading spur to the Waipawa River and out.

7 – 8th June: Lodge Food Carry **All Help** **Howard Nicholson** **357 6325**
ski@mtsc.org.nz

The lodge at Mt Ruapehu will be stocked with food in preparation for the upcoming Winter Season of skiing, riding, climbing and sliding. This involves carrying the food from the Top 'o the Bruce Road to the lodge, and usually takes just a few hours on Saturday morning. Any last-minute repairs and tidying up of the lodge will be done during the rest of the day before eating a sumptuous evening meal (assuming we can talk someone into cooking it).

Due to the good work done on previous work parties, you can enjoy a leisurely start on Sunday and enjoy the pre-season delights of the mountain before heading home.

Please let me know ASAP if you are coming along.

15th June: Wharite **Easy/medium** **Tim Swale** **06 3766556**

This local landmark, with the huge transmission tower at its peak, affords excellent views over both the Manawatu and Wairarapa. We will follow the Coppermine Creek track for a short while before turning off on the Wharite track. The climb is steep at first but soon eases off and eventually reaches the top of the Ruahines where we will have lunch before retracing our steps. Anyone feeling guilty about leaving kids or partners behind could even arrange to meet them at the top as there is a road that runs up to the transmission tower!

22nd June: Blue Range Hut **Easy/Medium** **Alla Seleznyova** **355 0862**

Blue Range Hut is a cute wonderfully blue hut set in a small clearing in beech forest at about 850 m overlooking northern Wairarapa. It can be reached from Kiriwhakapapa Road end, off SH2. A well maintained track up to the hut ascends about 700 m. At the top of the hill (Pt 978 m), the track branches to the right and descends to the hut. Depending on the pace, it takes about 2-3 hours to reach the hut.

28 - 29th June: Waterfall Hut **Medium/Fit** **Jean Garman** **021 1760209**
jean.garman@fonterra.com

Waterfall Hut can be accessed by many different routes from both the East and the West - the actual route taken will be decided at the time, it being dependant on the weather and energy levels. There is likely to be stream/river travel, off track tops travel, possibly off track bush travel and there may even be snow!

29th June: Holdsworth Old Tracks **Easy** **Tim Swale** **06 3766556**

The Mount Holdsworth road end is the most popular access point to the eastern Tararuas and the tracks and facilities in the area have been improved immensely over the last few years. However, there remain traces of the historic tracks that used to climb the spur to the real Rocky Lookout and also down to the camping area at Donnelly Flat. This will be an easy trip but with the chance of improving navigational skills.

TRIP REPORTS

Wednesday 26th March: Sheridan Creek, Field Hut, Otaki forks lower tracks....

Linda Darbyshire



Linda, Christine, Jill, Sandi, Chris, Leonie, Bev, Ian, and Bernard enjoying morning tea at the boiler.

It seems a bit of a mouthful...so many options for this Wednesday group of trampers, however numbers have grown somewhat and there are varying degrees of fitness. We divided into 3 groups, each with a leader and set off our separate ways. I accompanied the Sheridan Creek group, numbering 10. This is the 3rd year in a row doing the route, thanks to good weather. There had been some rain leading up to the day so the creek was slightly deeper than other years, but not flooded. The challenges walking upstream as always were foot placement on stony, sometimes slippery stones and keeping an eye out when the track darted in and

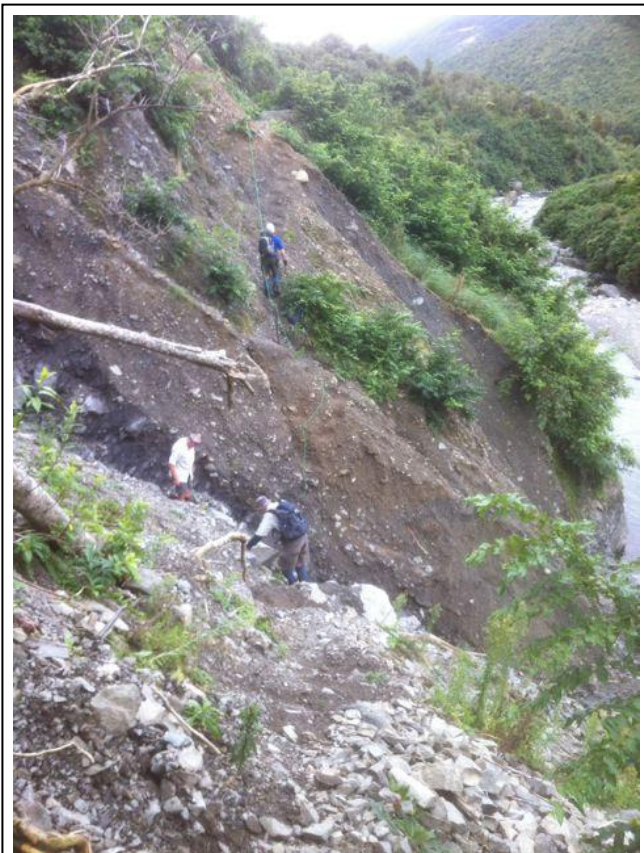
out of the stream. The large slip, which in previous years we walked across, has altered so the more straightforward option was staying in the stream to bypass it. The historic boiler was a welcome and interesting stop for morning tea. This is a tramp in which a group needs to stay together, and there was plenty of chatter and communication going on. Once back in the water we continued upstream from the boiler, rambling over stones and larger rocks before deciding where to enter the bush and bash uphill to join Field Hut track (and our fellow trampers who had taken this path). The first year tackling this tramp we bush bashed directly up the spur, which involved pulling yourself up a steep grade trying to pick the ponga that would hold your weight! The second year we went left of the spur, which was an easier gradient, but brought us to the left of the Field Hut track at the top and we had to walk further right to find the track. This year we scrambled up the creek between the spurs (not a wise option) even though some liked the challenge.... after a couple hundred metres we managed to scramble up the side of the spur and stop for a nice dry lunch among the fantails. When bush bashing this territory the use of secateurs makes the going much easier through dense vines. Having a GPS to confirm your position was also valuable. The duration of the trip was 5.30 hours. Next year, to add to our skills I plan to use a compass. Thanks to John Ridge and John Hunt for leading the sub groups.



Christine Finnigan, Sandi Pearson and Bev Akers waiting by the restored tracks

Wednesday 23rd April: to Waiotauru Bridge and Hut

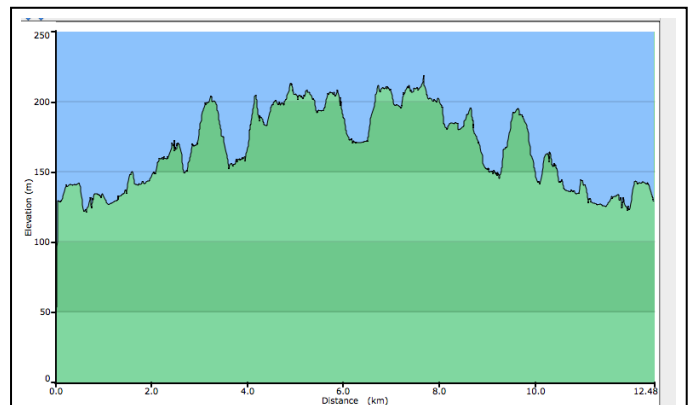
Bob Hodgson



Crossing the slip

Evan

A party of thirty three met up at the far end of the Otaki Forks road and split into three groups. The slip crossing photo provides evidence for those who wisely abstained at the first of the several slips and enjoyed a day on the lower tracks. The second group who tramped to the swing bridge, or its vicinity found that the track did indeed have its ups and downs (see GPS in and out profile). The Waiotauru hut reinforces the sense of achievement for those who made it there. The track was in a very poor state but by contrast the hut was found to be clean and spruce. An enjoyable tramp, thanks to trip leader Chris and the team.



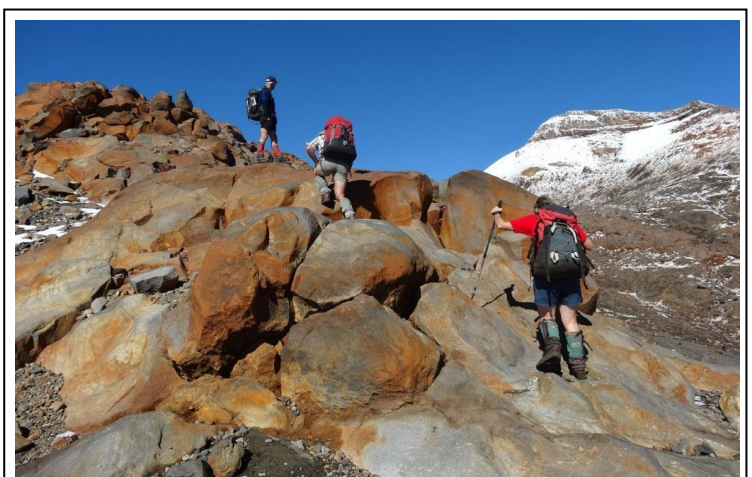
The many ups and downs - GPS profile

Bob

26th April: Up Ruapehu

Adam Matich

Even though the weather has become somewhat mercurial of late, we managed to find a weather window for a day climb of Ruapehu from the Whakapapa ski field (1000 m; 3 hr). It being a calm day we elected to walk all the way from the car park, eschewing the siren call of the chair-lift. One hour's climb saw us at the Alpine Club hut at 2010 m, from where we had a shallow gully to cross before getting back on track to climbing up the spur immediately east of the Whakapapa glacier. The lower section of this spur has rough volcanic rock to climb over (good footing), but above 2200 m it changes to smooth ice-polished rock which is easier travel again. Down on our right was the glacier, the lower part of which was covered by shingle, so was not obvious at first glance.



Dave, Brian and Jenny climbing ice polished rock

Adam

At the higher altitude there was a cold, but light breeze, so long-winded stops were discouraged, and at around 2500 m there was quite a lot of hard new snow that was too slippery to walk upon. Fortunately, there were a lot of rocks sticking up through the snow for us to rock-hop on for that 50 m section of the climb. For the final 50 m to the crater wall (the Dome ridge) the soft shingle beneath the snow had allowed the snow to be broken up by previous

parties, so the going was easy. There were other people up on the rim, and even though it was sunny no one stayed around too long because of the air temperature and the cold breeze.



Dave viewing the summit plateau from the crater rim

Adam

After a quick lunch (Dave didn't even get a second cup of coffee) we headed back down again. Brian lead us cross country to end up at the MTSC lodge, the only bit of terrain requiring a little bit of attention being the gully (Tawhainu Stream) crossing before the lodge. Climbing Ruapehu without snow (March to mid April) is an interesting and comparatively safe day trip as the footing is good and

you get to see all the rock formations that are normally hidden by snow. We were Brian Webster, Dave Mitchell, Jenny McCarthy, and Adam Match.

Wednesday 30th April: Divergent Paths

Bob Hodgson

After a minor transport related delay, at about 10 am, 31 Wednesday trampers left the Mount Holdsworth road end car park (300 m) in three groups. One group headed for the lofty heights of Powell Hut (1220 m) in wind-free but chilly conditions. A second group headed along the Atiwhakatu Valley to Atiwhakatu Hut with a few going on a bit further on the more traditional tramping track. The refurbished track was in good order except for a detour around a washed out bridge. The third major party made a morning tea stop at the rocky Lookout (680 m) and then tramped on (peak 781 m) for lunch at Mountain House Shelter (740 m) before back-tracking to the River Ridge track down to the Atiwhakatu Valley. This steeply descending track with its myriad of tree roots made a distinct contrast with the benched track up to the Shelter and the trampers' expressway back to the car park via Donnelly Flat. Good autumnal tramping with no rain and patchy sunshine. All were out safely by 4 pm. Thanks to trip leader Anne and our drivers; especially Chris who drove the club van.



Washed out bridge

Maureen

3-4th May: Mackintosh Hut, Kawekas

Nicola Wallace

It was a fine and sunny morning for our BLW (bloody long way) Hawkes Bay drive to The Lakes road end; we arrived at about 10 am. Mark soon found that he had a problem when he removed his pack from the van: a shoulder strap had worn completely through, just below the padded part. After a quick tie-up job, Mark was good to go, albeit having to hold the strap with one arm, and the pack sitting awkwardly off centre.

The initial descent to the Tutaekuri River (where I slipped over onto my arse on the smooth orange Kaweka soil) was followed by the increasingly steep ascent of The Rogue. Adam set a relaxed pace at the front however, so the



conservation flowed as we climbed. We soon had a great view of The Lakes, then conversation slowed as some very steep bits were negotiated. Not difficult, but I had to lean full-on forward to avoid falling backwards! Lots of wilding pines (*Pinus contorta* I believe) protected us from the cold wind that welcomed us to the higher altitudes. Nevertheless, it was “layers on” when we got to the exposed rocky bits.

Somewhere close to “The Tits”, we stopped for a quick lunch in the sun, and enjoyed fantastic views of the Hawkes Bay and the ocean to the East. Shortly after, we reached the trip’s high point, Kaiarahi, at 1507 m. This is quite an intersection, with three tracks meeting here, complete with those metal signs peculiar to the Kawekas. Heading off from here in a NE direction, we soon came to the Mackintosh Hut turnoff, and an oldish fella heading in the other direction. A chat revealed that he had left his PLB up at Kaiarahi, and had come back into the hills to retrieve it. We hadn’t seen it up there. The descent down Mackintosh Spur through pines was punctuated by a short, steep scramble round a large rock. Somewhere towards the bottom of the spur, Adam envisioned himself sitting in front of



Exposed rocky bits above The Rogue

Adam Matich



Final climb to Kaiarahi

Adam Matich

the fire in the hut, and he suggested we collect pine cones while pines still presented themselves. Some collected more than others, but all contributed. A pretty walk through beech forest, full of singing bellbirds, soon brought us to the Hut. What a beautiful big orange hut, with an equally big covered veranda (good for sleeping on I thought). In front of the hut was a big open area that looked like a swamp, but was dry. We had the hut to ourselves, until our old fella (Adrian) turned up a little later, having found his PLB.

It had taken us 5¼ hours to reach the hut, and I spent the rest of the afternoon exploring round the hut, still in good weather but rapidly cooling off. It was also nice just sitting on the veranda listening to the bellbirds. Adam cooked a hearty meal for his crew, and I enjoyed a Beef & Pasta Hotpot freeze-dry. Our hut mate Adrian was an interesting character, a very well spoken retired lawyer, and we had some good discussions on current topics. Actually, we never used the pinecones we’d collected, as it was too warm to light the fire.

On going outside to ready my veranda sleeping spot, I heard a strange screeching I’d never heard before. Dave thought it might be Sika deer, and I thought it might be Kiwi. After “going to bed” early, I heard more moreporks than the mystery screeching. I slept very well, and awoke to a slightly damp sleeping bag and a dewy morning.

We split into two groups on the way out, with Adam and Jenny going out by the shortest route (2 hr on the sign), and Mark, Dave & I heading out to the Lawrence Shelter car park (4 hr on the sign), from where Adam & Jenny would pick us up. This was a really interesting walk, with constantly changing scenery, and a scattering of old bones in places on the track (sheep or deer)? After a long descent, morning tea was taken in the bush, where a Robin came



and checked us out thoroughly. The last 30 minutes was either in or alongside the Donald River, which at times came up to my bum and was deeper than I expected. Adam & Jenny had only been waiting at the Lawrence Road end for a few minutes when we arrived, after three hours, and I had to have a walk across the swing bridge because it was there. Mark's pack had held together, and everyone was happy. The Kawekas are always special and interesting, and this was a great trip. Adam drove us back through the beautiful sunny Hawkes Bay.

Thanks to Adam for all the driving and the others for their good company. We were: Adam Matich (leader), Jenny McCarthy, Dave Mitchell, Mark Learmonth and Nicola Wallace.

Wednesday 7th April: the Kohitere and Papaitonga Scenic Reserves

Bob Hodgson



Papaitonga Scenic reserve

Maureen

28 trampers were called to action starting from the Poulton Drive end of Gladstone Road making their way through the Kohitere Scenic Reserve which consists mainly of production pine trees. The tracks are well formed and used by mountain bikes. The route to Denton Road is about 7.2 km long and involves a rise and fall of about 300 m including the Arapaepae Lookout and a trig point at 377 m. Almost as soon as we set out the heavens opened and we trudged for the first 40 min in very intense rain. The associated clouds ensured that we saw very little from the lookout. The faster trampers tramped through and finding the native bush reserve on the end of Queen Street closed because of wind damage, set off hot foot to return to the start point along Gladstone Road. During the later

part of this transit there were several very intense showers. The tramp was enjoyed by all; its main attraction is that the pleasant walk through the Forest reserve forms part of the national walkway linking to the Makahika Track that we walked early in April. We then made our way to the Papaitonga Scenic Reserve to enjoy the 40 min board walk through lowland bush and views of the shallow lake. A visit to this reserve is recommended; it was new to many of us. Coffee at the Museum Cafe was widely appreciated. Thanks to Bernard, tramp and transport leader and to our many drivers.

Thursday 8th May: No 1 Line, Pohangina valley
Royce Mills

We stopped to take photos of our group of 14 encircling the very large rimu tree near the start of the track. We headed on up to the high point of 1011 m then returned to have lunch at the lookout seat on the way down. We enjoyed good weather - the rain arrived just as we were driving off from the car park. Thanks to our leader Merv Matthews.



How many Thursday trampers does it take to encircle a rimu tree?

Richard Ellis



New Members

Prospective members must be nominated by a Proposer and a Secunder who are current MTSC members and have been so for at least one year. New memberships are confirmed at the next monthly committee meeting. Prospective members are encouraged to go on a club trip or attend a club night before joining. This is a great way to meet current members who can nominate you. For further information or an application form please see the club website.

Club Equipment

Hire equipment: we have packs, 2 and 3 person tents, tent flies (small and large), snow mats, gas cookers, size 8 and 9 boots, billies, food dehydrator and two bivvy bags. Ice axes, crampons, and helmets are also available. We have two personal locator beacons (PLB) for which there is no charge. Contact the Gear Custodian: Peter Rawlins on (06) 356 7443.

Website | www.mtsc.org.nz

This contains club information, photos, contact details and back issues of this newsletter, Beechleaves.

The club website is maintained by Howard Nicholson (06) 357 6325 and is kindly hosted by **InSPire Net**, a locally based company.

Facebook | <https://www.facebook.com/MTandSC>

Accommodation at the MTSC lodge on Mount Ruapehu

The lodge is close to Iwikau Village, has power, heating, hot showers and is well stocked with food. Members and their guests are welcome.

For Lodge bookings email Liz and Hugh Wilde lodge.bookings@mtsc.org.nz. If you cannot email then phone (06) 356 9450. To confirm your booking payment must be made in advance by cheque to 179 Cook St Palmerston North 4410 or by cash in person. Internet payment is not available for lodge fees.

	Members	Guests
Adult	\$30	\$45
Secondary School	\$25	\$40
Primary School	\$20	\$35
Pre-school (3-5 yo)	\$10	\$10

The Lodge phone number is (07) 892 3860.

Booking the MTSC Van

For bookings:

- Contact Ken Mercer (06) 356 7497.
- Cancellations should be made as soon as practicable to accommodate other potential users.

A fly (in the passenger door) and a Personal Locator Beacon (in the glove box) are available for use free of charge on trips.



Contact Details

Postal Address: MTSC, P.O. Box 245, Palmerston North

Committee 2013 - 2014

President	Linda Campbell	president@mtsc.org.nz	06 323 3836
Secretary	Tim Swale	secretary@mtsc.org.nz	06 376 6556
Treasurer	Arthur Flint	treasurer@mtsc.org.nz	06 356 7654
Chief Guide	Ken Mercer	chief.guide@mtsc.org.nz	06 356 7497
Membership	Judy Swainson	membership@mtsc.org.nz	06 358 4082
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Lodge Manager	John Lyttle	lodge.manager@mtsc.org.nz	027 4336307
Mini-Bus Manager	Ken Mercer		06 356 7497

General Committee

Bev Akers, Bob Hodgson, Howard Nicholson, Rob Pringle, John Beech

Appointees

Lodge Bookings	Hugh & Liz Wilde	lodge.bookings@mtsc.org.nz	06 356 9450
Gear Custodian	Peter Rawlins	gear@mtsc.org.nz	06 356 7443
Ski Captain	Howard Nicholson	ski@mtsc.org.nz	06 357 6325
Social Convenor	Bob Hodgson	social@mtsc.org.nz	06 356 2915
Wednesday Trip Convenor	Bev Akers		06 325 8879
Thursday Trip Convenor	Merv Matthews		06 357 2858